

I am involved in the commercial satellite industry as well as being an amateur radio operator.

Commercial satellites operate on a for profit basis, making operation and deployment significant financial undertakings.

I can understand the commissions 27 month requirement for commercial satellite operations since the FCC has to assure equitable and competitive access to the assets to which it is entrusted by the people.

The case for amateur radio satellites is significantly different. Amateur satellites are all built and launched by volunteer and not for profit entities for the sole purpose of expanding scientific knowledge and education.

Launch opportunities that are available and affordable to these groups most often occur on an ad-hoc basis. As indicated in the petitioners filing, the FCC has routinely granted waivers to accomodate the requestor.

By modifying the extended pre-launch notification period to 30 days, the commission has the opportunity stimulate participation in this area and make better use of their own assets.